

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Cuba

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SUBJECT

Weekly Meeting of the National
Executive Board of the PSP

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1. During the week of 25-31 January 1953 the National Executive Board of the Partido Socialista Popular (PSP, Cuban Communist Party) held several meetings which were marked by a state of confusion, despair, and uneasiness on the part of top leaders of the Party, occasioned by the series of raids and assaults against Party property and offices of Communist-dominated unions on the part of the Servicio Inteligencia Militar (SIM). As reported previously, the Party had outlined a course of action to protest against the SIM attack on Party headquarters in Juyano during a ceremony of homage to Lenin. Before this program of protest could be implemented, additional attacks were carried out by the government, with the result that Executive Board members of the Party fear that they have appeared ridiculous in the eyes of the active members and rank and file of the Party because of their apparent inactivity and failure to counteract this police action. The National Executive Board will not carry out its plan to seek redress and indemnity against the government in the courts, but it will address another PSP document to each of the other opposition political parties, requesting these parties to join with the Communists in protesting against the brutalities of the government. This appeal will conclude with the now-familiar slogan of forming the united front of opposition against BATISTA. The argument will be presented in this document that these repressive police measures are not directed against the Communists per se, but rather constitute an attack against any opposition to the government. The PSP is the present target of these attacks only because it has been the party in the forefront of BATISTA opposition. The other opposition parties are warned that similar attacks will be made against them if they attempt singly to oppose the present government. Examples of government repression of non-Communist activity which will be cited in the PSP document are an alleged use of machine-guns in breaking up a meeting on January 15 of the Federacion de Estudiantes Universitarios (FEU), the threat by the government to defy the autonomy of the University of Habana, and the unprovoked attack on Jose Manuel FIDALGO, Ortodoxo leader and well-known sculptor, whose studio was entered by police. Statues and tools were destroyed, and FIDALGO fled when the police tried to put him under arrest.

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2. The National Executive Board discussed the project concerning its activities in the split within the Ortodoxo Party. It was decided that the PSP would continue to attempt to widen the breach within the Ortodoxo Party and would increase its efforts to effect an agreement with PARDO LLADA, Ortodoxo leader.
3. Joaquin ORDOQUI, presiding officer of the Executive Board, stated that the information indicates that the government is seriously studying a revision of the electoral code, to the extent that all parties which were in existence on 10 March 1952 will be accepted as political parties for the purpose of participating in the next elections. The Executive Board again congratulated itself and all members of the Party for success in leading an attack against the electoral code. The Board was optimistic in its belief that the PSP will continue as a political party.
4. With regard to internal structure of the Party, a discussion was held regarding the directives to all Communist parties which emanated from the 19th Congress of the Communist Party of the USSR. A committee on doctrine and organization was appointed to study the report made at that Congress by Comrade Malenkov and to adopt those portions of this report which were practical and feasible for Cuba. Anibal ESCALANTE, Ladislao GONZALEZ CARBAJAL, and Joaquin ORDOQUI will comprise this committee.
5. The trade union question was discussed in general terms and consisted in a scrutiny of the Party's established union program. The conclusion reached was that satisfactory progress is being shown and that present labor policies will be maintained.
6. The National Executive Board is alarmed over the lethargic manner in which the provincial leaders of Camaguey are conducting Party affairs. There will soon be a session of criticism and autocriticism conducted with these Camagueyans, in order to show them their mistakes and save them from further deviation. Manuel LUZARDO has just returned from an inspection trip on behalf of the National Executive Board, during which he met in a secret conference with each of the provincial leaders of Camaguey and in which he analyzed with each one the Party work at present in progress within the various municipal committees. LUZARDO stated that in the whole province, there were only five municipal committees that were accomplishing anything worth while and that all of the other committees in this province were in a sad state of disorganization, disorientation, and inactivity. LUZARDO charged Ursino ROJAS with the responsibility of devoting more of his time to political matters and matters of Party doctrine. ROJAS will be the principal Communist leader in the city of Camaguey and he will have to assume these new political responsibilities in addition to his responsibilities as principal Communist labor leader in Camaguey and national leader of the Communist sugar workers' union.
7. Another important matter discussed was the forthcoming national conference on insurance and social security, which will be held in preparation for the world conference to be held in Vienna. Diego GONZALEZ MARTIN, a physician who was especially invited to the meeting in order to report on this matter, stated that this national conference will have an unprecedented success and reception. Many distinguished personalities, doctors, nurses, and other professional people who are widely known to be non-Communist have promised to participate and lend their support to the national conference on social security. It was specifically reported that among the non-Communist participants in this conference will be the Federacion Nacional Auxiliares de la Medicina, Colegio Nacional de Enfermeros, and Senor Alberto RODRIGUEZ SUST, member of the Executive Board of the non-Communist Confederacion de Trabajadores Cubanos (CTC). Furthermore, the conference itself will take place on the premises of the Asociacion de Enfermeros de Cuba.

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